Lesson Five – Noah and Obedience

One of the reasons we are spending an entire quarter on one chapter about FAITH is that faith is a much misunderstood topic. Many people think that faith excludes works of any kind. To them, if salvation is by faith (it is!) then we are not required to do anything (wrong!), They believe that faith and works are “mutually exclusive” and that therefore we cannot be required to do any works (baptism for example).

To be fair there are many passages that say things like we are saved by faith, NOT WORKS. There is a sense in which faith excludes works. We will consider these in this lesson.

Hebrews 11 is valuable on this point because in several other examples, the faith was complimented by works of obedience. Complete the chart below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Verse | Who had faith? | What work did they do? | Was the work required? |
| 8 |  |  |  |
| 17 |  |  |  |
| 28 |  |  |  |
| 29 |  |  |  |
| 30 |  |  |  |
| 31 |  |  |  |

The following passage, and others like them, show that there is a sense in which faith excludes works. How would you explain the texts that stress that our salvation is NOT by or of works?

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Romans 4:4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. 5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness.

What phrases does James use to show the complimentary relationship between faith and works in James 2:14-25. Note especially verses 18 and 22.